

Last year the Division of Child Support:

- *Collected more than \$324 million for current or former WorkFirst parents.*
- *Collected more than \$662 million for all parents, which was an increase of \$23 million from the previous year.*
- *Served more than 430,000 children each month.*
- *Handled more than 242,000 WorkFirst cases per month.*
- *Saved taxpayers more than \$87 million per year.*

Program contact:

David Stillman
(360) 664-5050
dstillman@dshs.wa.gov

For more information about the WorkFirst program, visit
www.workfirst.wa.gov

Why is child support important to the WorkFirst program?

Parents are legally obligated to support their children financially. When a family is separated, the non-custodial parent pays child support, so that the custodial parent does not have to rely on welfare and can seek employment or training to avoid poverty. The Division of Child Support within the Department of Social and Health Services enforces state and federal child support laws enabling these families and children to remain self-sufficient.

Who is eligible for services?

WorkFirst and Medicaid families automatically receive child support services. All other families may apply for and receive services.

What services are available?

- **Location of non-custodial parents:** Locates parents who owe child support through shared federal and state data bases and other sources.
- **Paternity and support order establishment:** Establishes paternity through programs with hospitals and county prosecutors and child support orders through either administrative or judicial processes.
- **Medical support establishment:** Establishes medical insurance coverage for children, if available through a parent's employer or union at a reasonable cost.
- **Monitor and enforce child support orders:** Monitors payments and enforces current and past due child support orders through administrative and judicial activity and other initiatives like the "Most Wanted" website.
- **Tribal support services:** Promotes tribal agreements to establish and enforce child support for tribal members.

What are the benefits to taxpayers for custodial parents who receive regular child support payments?

Each month, parents use:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| • Up to 75 percent less welfare | \$1.7 million |
| • Less Medicaid | \$4.5 million |
| • Less food assistance | \$1.1 million |

Total cost savings to taxpayers per month =	\$7.3 million per month or \$87 million per year
---	---